

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2727

To amend part A of title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding international and foreign language studies.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2004

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. FEINGOLD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend part A of title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding international and foreign language studies.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “International and For-
5 eign Language Studies Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) In recent years, foreign language needs
9 have significantly increased throughout the Federal
10 Government due to the presence of a wider range of

1 security threats, the emergence of new nation states,
2 and the globalization of the United States economy.

3 (2) Likewise, American businesses increasingly
4 need internationally and multiculturally experienced
5 employees to compete in the global economy and to
6 manage a culturally diverse workforce.

7 (3) Currently, the Federal Government requires
8 34,000 employees with foreign language skills across
9 more than 70 Federal agencies.

10 (4) Federal agency officials have stated that,
11 over the years, translator and interpreter shortfalls
12 have adversely affected agency operations and hin-
13 dered United States military, law enforcement, intel-
14 ligence, counterterrorism, and diplomatic efforts.

15 (5) In a 2002 General Accounting Office report,
16 the United States Army reported that it was experi-
17 encing serious shortfalls of translators and inter-
18 preters in 5 of its 6 critical languages: Arabic, Ko-
19 rean, Mandarin Chinese, Persian-Farsi, and Rus-
20 sian.

21 (6) The number of Foreign Language and Area
22 Studies Fellowships awarded in 2003 was 30 percent
23 less than the number awarded at its high point in
24 1967.

1 (7) In the 2000–2001 school year, the number
2 of foreign language degrees conferred was 1 percent
3 of the total undergraduate degrees conferred, less
4 than .05 percent of the total masters degrees con-
5 ferred, and 1 percent of the total doctoral degrees
6 conferred.

7 (8) In the 2003 National Survey of Student
8 Engagement, only $\frac{2}{5}$ of undergraduates reported
9 taking foreign language coursework, while only 1 in
10 5 reported having studied abroad.

11 (9) Only 1 percent of all United States under-
12 graduates studied abroad in the 2001–2002 school
13 year.

14 (10) In 2002, 79 percent of Americans agreed
15 that students should have a study-abroad experience
16 sometime during college.

17 (11) More than 40 percent of Americans said
18 they were more likely to favor an increase in State
19 funding for foreign language education at their local
20 college or university after September 11, 2001.

21 **SEC. 3. REFERENCES.**

22 Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in
23 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
24 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
25 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a

1 section or other provision of the Higher Education Act of
 2 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

3 **SEC. 4. GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE LANGUAGE AND**
 4 **AREA CENTERS AND PROGRAMS.**

5 Section 602 (20 U.S.C. 1122) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (G), by striking
 8 “and” after the semicolon;

9 (B) in subparagraph (H), by striking the
 10 period and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(I) support for instructors of the less
 13 commonly taught languages.”;

14 (2) in subsection (b)—

15 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
 16 “AND UNDERGRADUATE” after “GRADUATE”;
 17 and

18 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
 19 ing the following:

20 “(2) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—A student receiving
 21 a stipend described in paragraph (1) shall be en-
 22 gaged—

23 “(A) in an instructional program with stat-
 24 ed performance goals for functional foreign lan-
 25 guage use or in a program developing such per-

1 formance goals, in combination with area stud-
 2 ies, international studies, or the international
 3 aspects of a professional studies program; and

4 “(B)(i) in the case of an undergraduate
 5 student, in the intermediate or advanced study
 6 of a less commonly taught language; or

7 “(ii) in the case of a graduate student, in
 8 graduate study work in connection with a pro-
 9 gram described in subparagraph (A), including
 10 predissertation level study, preparation for dis-
 11 sertation research, dissertation research abroad,
 12 or dissertation writing.”; and

13 (3) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
 14 following:

15 “(d) ALLOWANCES.—

16 “(1) GRADUATE LEVEL RECIPIENTS.—A sti-
 17 pend awarded to a graduate level recipient may in-
 18 clude allowances for dependents and for travel for
 19 research and study in the United States and abroad.

20 “(2) UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL RECIPIENTS.—A
 21 stipend awarded to an undergraduate level recipient
 22 may include an allowance for educational programs
 23 in the United States or abroad that—

24 “(A) are closely linked to the overall goals
 25 of the recipient’s course of study; and

1 “(B) have the purpose of promoting for-
 2 eign language fluency and cultural knowledge.”.

3 **SEC. 5. USE OF FUNDS IN UNDERGRADUATE INTER-**
 4 **NATIONAL STUDIES AND FOREIGN LAN-**
 5 **GUAGE PROGRAMS.**

6 Section 604 (20 U.S.C. 1124) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (2)—

9 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs (I)
 10 through (M) as subparagraphs (J) through
 11 (N), respectively; and

12 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
 13 (H) the following:

14 “(I) providing subgrants to undergraduate
 15 students for educational programs abroad
 16 that—

17 (i) are closely linked to the overall
 18 goals of the program for which the grant
 19 is awarded; and

20 (ii) have the purpose of promoting
 21 foreign language fluency and cultural
 22 knowledge;” and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(9) LIMITATION ON UNDERGRADUATE
 25 GRANTS.—An institution of higher education, a com-

1 bination of such institutions, or a partnership
 2 awarded a grant under this section shall use not
 3 more than 10 percent of the grant funds for the use
 4 described in paragraph (2)(I).”; and
 5 (2) by striking subsection (c).

6 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**

7 Section 605(a) (20 U.S.C. 1125(a)) is amended—
 8 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” after
 9 the semicolon;
 10 (2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and
 11 inserting “; and”; and
 12 (3) by adding at the end the following:
 13 “(10) the systematic collection, analysis, and
 14 dissemination of data that contribute to achieving
 15 the purposes of this part.”.

16 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 Section 610 (20 U.S.C. 1128b) is amended by strik-
 18 ing “\$80,000,000 for fiscal year 1999” and inserting
 19 “\$120,000,000 for fiscal year 2005”.

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